

Trees Still Sound Investment

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Alabama timber growers supported the third largest timber harvest on record during 2000. Despite a recent slump in timber demand and a reduction in stumpage values, forest landowners earned a very large income from their trees last year. The two leading years occurred in 1997 and 1998.

Based on an Alabama Forestry Commission report called "Production of Forest Products by Counties in Alabama," forest landowners sold 1.13 billion cubic feet of wood and banked \$878 million in cash receipts for their stumpage (see table). The highest valued forest product sold was pine sawtimber, which netted \$609 million and represent-

ed 70 percent of the total harvest value.

Five counties received top revenues from sales of forest products in 2000. Those counties were, in ranked order, Clarke, Hale, Choctaw, Monroe and Marengo. Revenues paid to timber growers in those counties alone totaled over \$210 million.

Alabama has experienced an upward trend for forest product production over the last 10 years (Figure 1). Demand for timber increased in both harvested volumes and the amount paid for products. Growing trees continues to be a sound investment.

The cash value of Alabama's timber harvest in 2000 (Figure 2) increased by

132 percent over its value in 1990. Ten-year harvest values ranged from a low of \$378 million in 1990 to a high of \$1 billion in 1998. Harvested volumes increased in a similar fashion, from a low of .9 billion cubic feet in 1990 to a high of almost 1.2 billion cubic feet in 1998.

An extra bit of good news comes with early data from the latest inventory of Alabama's forest. Initial reports tell us that increased harvest levels have not substantially affected the amount of available standing timber, either in total volume or in growth as compared to removals. Alabama continues to grow more trees and wood on increasing forest acres than ever before. 🌲

Alabama Forest Product Production and Value, 2000*

COUNTY	PINE SAWTIMBER Volume (mbf Scribner)	HARDWOOD SAWTIMBER Volume (mbf Doyle)	PINE PULPWOOD Volume (cords)	HARDWOOD PULPWOOD Volume (cords)	POLES AND PILES Volume (mbf Doyle)	Estimated Harvest Revenue Stump Value (\$Thousand)
Autauga	13,054	1,891	45,503	41,859	0	\$7,081
Baldwin	50,404	1,141	180,684	54,386	6,244	\$27,452
Barbour	21,343	3,282	170,871	92,687	287	\$14,381
Bibb	23,562	6,347	41,458	19,242	2,811	\$12,769
Blount	13,211	2,677	16,523	17,843	24	\$5,739
Bullock	7,724	549	81,619	42,747	0	\$5,656
Butler	60,941	956	202,948	87,253	734	\$29,554
Calhoun	14,551	1,536	32,327	26,985	0	\$6,456
Chambers	30,218	3,630	121,271	66,472	0	\$15,970
Cherokee	14,827	1,037	38,149	19,552	0	\$6,448
Chilton	20,298	1,876	52,905	43,407	0	\$9,974
Choctaw	82,809	4,300	167,810	124,839	3,535	\$39,842
Clarke	88,241	28,378	232,590	201,604	6,047	\$50,639
Clay	11,616	7,681	74,879	49,816	0	\$8,412
Cleburne	17,638	2,118	52,992	34,924	0	\$8,221
Coffee	10,368	1,036	81,032	48,675	153	\$6,923
Colbert	5,259	2,162	51,206	42,175	0	\$4,094
Conecuh	62,381	1,861	270,053	127,221	1,638	\$33,042
Coosa	18,638	2,556	154,886	63,389	33	\$12,144
Covington	20,802	1,931	118,605	67,700	1,970	\$12,153
Crenshaw	21,235	6,431	107,989	61,822	144	\$12,822
Cullman	26,458	2,774	42,654	46,619	55	\$11,362
Dale	12,365	1,550	38,002	66,901	100	\$7,171
Dallas	35,106	4,493	112,564	84,334	46	\$18,157
DeKalb	9,647	7,137	9,574	33,642	0	\$5,550
Elmore	9,999	2,908	42,044	35,270	21	\$5,926
Escambia	37,419	1,201	142,783	118,519	8,892	\$24,548
Etowah	8,279	1,761	18,038	36,486	0	\$4,212
Fayette	21,194	3,332	42,550	57,564	0	\$9,843

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Franklin	8,727	6,598	52,689	78,162	0	\$6,843
Geneva	5,989	835	43,120	35,654	256	\$4,209
Greene	32,220	9,390	19,275	61,077	205	\$15,538
Hale	117,634	4,217	26,010	51,431	352	\$46,476
Henry	12,840	1,257	24,430	48,048	279	\$6,702
Houston	5,185	2,104	35,525	34,716	97	\$3,870
Jackson	9,147	10,919	13,721	53,500	0	\$6,592
Jefferson	36,858	5,579	45,177	55,257	0	\$15,666
Lamar	17,368	5,809	59,213	71,350	29	\$9,666
Lauderdale	3,721	1,621	11,101	41,774	0	\$2,567
Lawrence	2,524	1,718	9,680	28,707	0	\$1,922
Lee	11,376	1,918	68,546	43,345	0	\$6,995
Limestone	1,600	580	5,741	12,197	0	\$1,002
Lowndes	19,252	667	110,874	47,981	403	\$10,943
Macon	8,667	1,528	70,559	43,037	0	\$5,951
Madison	2,604	2,581	929	2,282	0	\$1,479
Marengo	60,112	33,375	122,804	149,568	2,518	\$35,679
Marion	18,320	4,921	79,307	65,614	46	\$10,160
Marshall	5,699	2,748	1,843	18,285	0	\$2,865
Mobile	25,657	1,185	44,076	21,655	3,356	\$13,007
Monroe	77,213	3,835	252,582	104,316	2,922	\$38,768
Montgomery	8,275	5,061	41,365	33,475	114	\$5,675
Morgan	8,233	1,483	13,248	13,661	0	\$3,640
Perry	24,963	1,984	90,750	43,496	239	\$12,692
Pickens	39,452	16,348	62,388	46,834	403	\$19,183
Pike	10,751	2,569	68,103	42,092	267	\$6,989
Randolph	15,567	2,543	56,884	28,190	0	\$8,102
Russell	6,983	1,536	80,109	33,900	43	\$5,366
Shelby	12,012	2,006	66,662	13,581	0	\$6,213
St Clair	18,201	2,237	82,571	41,257	0	\$9,198
Sumter	38,292	7,144	104,056	59,547	1,061	\$19,675
Tallapoosa	22,808	3,198	119,820	59,238	0	\$12,945
Talladega	16,527	1,657	79,224	53,675	0	\$8,648
Tuscaloosa	48,572	9,309	36,949	61,673	0	\$20,357
Walker	23,837	1,861	56,426	83,238	0	\$11,189
Washington	56,407	1,449	86,291	109,348	5,156	\$28,239
Wilcox	50,791	4,352	175,855	108,972	1,837	\$26,842
Winston	17,336	6,448	64,175	38,010	46	\$9,330
TOTAL	1,671,304	283,098	5,126,587	3,752,076	52,363	\$877,725

*Estimated from Severance Tax Reported to the Alabama Department of Revenue

Fig. 1

Alabama's Timber Harvest Estimated Volume Using Reported Severance

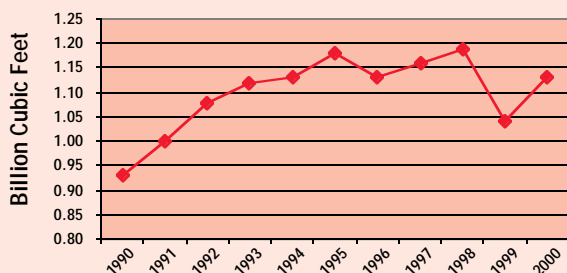


Fig. 2

Alabama's Timber Harvest Estimated Value in Dollars Paid For Stumpage

